

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL NOTES.

- I. ON A SET OF THE PLATES PREPARED BY THE REV. THOS. RACKETT (?) TO ILLUSTRATE THE SHELLS DESCRIBED IN THE SECOND EDITION OF HUTCHINS' *HISTORY . . . OF THE COUNTY OF DORSET*.
- II. ON LOVELL REEVE'S *INITIAMENTA CONCHOLOGICA, OR ELEMENTS OF CONCHOLOGY*, WITH THE ASCERTAINED DATES OF PUBLICATION OF THE PARTS.

By ALEXANDER REYNELL.

Read 14th January, 1916.

I. THE CONCHOLOGICAL PLATES AS PREPARED FOR THE SECOND EDITION OF HUTCHINS' *HISTORY OF DORSET*.

THESE consist of twenty-three coloured quarto plates numbered in manuscript and bound to form a volume. Seventeen of these plates, before alteration, were used by Da Costa to illustrate his *British Conchology*, published in 1778. The remaining plates, six in number, were specially prepared and engraved by Peter Mazell, who, according to Bryant's *Dictionary of Painters and Engravers*, last edition, was an English engraver who flourished about 1761-97 and worked for Pennant and Boydell. It would be interesting to have further particulars of this artist.

The volume contains a separate loose manuscript index to the figures on each plate, and also a sheet of four pages of foolscap paper endorsed as follows:—

“References to the descriptions Nos. & Plates in Volume the 8th of the Linnean Transactions as to those which are to be contained in the Plates relating to Shells in Hutchings Hist. Dorset and Dr. Pulteney's work for that publication.

“N.B. the Number on the left of each Species refers to the figures of the Genera in L. S. Transactions, and the Number of the Figure in the work of Dr. P. & to the Figures by Dr. Maton & Rev^d T. Rackett in their Plates to Hutch. Hist. Dorset.”

The references cover three pages of foolscap paper in double columns.

With reference to the plates, several have additional engraved and coloured figures stuck on, and these in some cases eliminate species which appeared in Da Costa's before-mentioned work and which had not been found in Dorset: for instance, on plate xii (plate xv in Da Costa) the figures of Da Costa's *Mya margaritifera* has been covered with figures of what are called on the index slip *Tellina fabula* and *Tellina donacina*. The source of these extra figures has not been ascertained; perhaps they were specially prepared for the History. Hutchins' *History of Dorset* being a folio, two of these quarto plates were printed on a sheet, with the exception of plate xxiii, which appears by itself.

When Maton & Rackett's "Descriptive Catalogue of the British Testacea", which appeared in the eighth volume of the Transactions of the Linnean Society, was reprinted, the plates under consideration were mostly bound up with it, frequently with a manuscript title-page mentioning that they were the plates of the shells described in Hutehins' *History of Dorset*, second edition. My own copy bears such an inscription, as do those belonging respectively to the British Museum (Natural History) [Dr. J. E. Grey's copy] and to Mr. Le Brockton Tomlin, who kindly brought his copy for inspection. These inscriptions are not in Dr. Maton's holograph, and the Rev. Thomas Rackett's does not appear to be known.

I have to thank Mr. B. B. Woodward for the interest he took in this volume of plates and for the trouble he went to in confirming details and obtaining additional particulars.

II. LOVELL REEVE'S *ELEMENTS OF CONCHOLOGY*.

The date of publication of this work is usually given as 1860, but this is far from correct as regards the first volume. There are in existence volumes with the following title-page:—

"Initiamenta Conchologica | Or | Elements of Conchology, | Comprising | The Physiological History of Shells | And | Their Molluscous Inhabitants, | Their Structure, Geographical Distribution, Habits, Characters, | Affinities, Arrangement, and Enumeration of Species. | By | Lovell Reeve, A.L.S., etc., | Author of the 'Conchologica Iconica'. | [Here follow eight lines from Milton's "Paradise Lost", Book iii] | London: | Printed & Published By | Reeve, Brothers, King William Street, Strand; | 1846."

This is followed by a two-page preface dated from King William Street, Strand, February 20, 1846. Some years ago when I came across my copy I compared it with that in the British Museum (Natural History), and found they both agreed. They consist of 160 pages of letterpress and plates A-I and 1-xxxvii. These, with the exception of the title-page and preface, are the same as in the *Elements*.

Recently I obtained a complete copy of the work. From the information gathered from these two copies it is evident that there was a big gap in time between the publication of the first 160 pages, etc., and the rest of the book. The 1846 title-page was issued with Part I. Mr. C. Davies Sherborn kindly confirmed this by a reference to Engelmann.

Unfortunately the parts of the complete copy I have been able to inspect had been prepared (?) for binding, *i.e.* the title-pages and plates had been separated from the text; but the title-page of Vol. II was probably issued with Parts XV and XVI. The data as regards Parts III-XIII are taken from an incomplete but untouched series.

The title-page for Vol. I, issued with Part XII, differs from that issued with Part I, which I have previously given in full. The preface also was entirely rewritten, and is dated from Hutton Brentwood, November 30, 1859. The number of the parts issued is

filled in in manuscript after Part X, the same setting being used for the covers to Parts XI–XVI.

The dates of publication and contents of the parts are as follows:—

No. of Part.	Date of Issue.	Number of Pages.	Lettered Plates.	Numbers of Figured Plates.	
I	1846	Title-page, Preface, and pp. 1–16	A, B, C	1 and 2	
II	undated	17–32	D	3–6	
III	„	33–48	E	7–10	
IV	„	49–64	F	11–14	
V	„	65–80	G	15–18	
VI	„	81–96	H	19–22	
VII	„	97–112	I, K	23–25	
VIII	1848	113–128	L	26–29	
IX	1848	129–144	M	30–33	Plates 32–3 numbered in roman numerals.
X	1849	145–160	N	34–37	Plates xxxvi and xxxvii numbered xxvi and xxvii in error.
XI	1859	161–224	O	38	
XII	1859	225–256, vol. i, with title-page and preface, 1–16, vol. ii,		39–40	Plates 39–40 numbered in roman numerals.
XIII		17–64		41–42	Plates 41–42 numbered in roman numerals.
XIV	1859	65–112	?	?	
XV } XVI }	1859 issued together	113–203 including index	?	?	

On the front covers of Parts IV–X there appears a figure in lithograph of the shell and animal of “The Tiger Cowrey (*Cypræa Tigris*) from the ‘Voyage de l’Astrolabe’; *Quoy*”; this in the subsequent parts is replaced by the monogram of R. L. in an ornamental design. On the inside of the front cover of Part XI is the following notice:—
“Arrangements for the Completion of the | ‘Elements of Conchology’. |

“The publication of the *Elements of Conchology* commenced on the plan of issuing in each number a sheet of sixteen pages of letterpress and five plates.

“At the end of the tenth number it was found that not a third of the letter-press was published, whilst the illustrations were nearly exhausted.

“Difficulties arising out of this and other circumstances concurred to delay the progress of the Work; but the Author has been assiduously occupied upon it during the past twelvemonth, and submits the following arrangement for its completion.

“It is proposed to complete the Work in six Numbers, to appear at intervals of a month, each containing two plates and from forty to fifty pages of letter-press.”

Parts I–X were published by Reeve Bros., King William Street, Strand (Fortin, Masson, et Cie, Paris, also appears on the covers), and Parts XI–XVI by Lovell Reeve, 5 Henrietta Street, Covent Garden.

In conclusion, since each genus has a long list of species attached and the parts were being issued *pari passu* with those of the same author's *Conchologica Iconica*, it is possible that a thorough search through the nomenclature may lead to some revisions. Amongst the genera dealt with the following are suggested as requiring investigation, viz. *Cymbium*, *Ricinula*, *Typhis*, *Pyrula*, *Mangelia*, *Fastigiella*, *Cerithium*, and *Monoptygma*.
